

A quiz to polish your knowledge of gold

By Roger Boye

Here's a golden opportunity to find out how much you know about the world's most famous precious metal. Quiz answers are at the end, but no fair peeking until you've done your best.

1. If all the gold ever mined in the world were stacked in one place, it would (a) fit in a bathtub, (b) cover a football field to a depth of about four feet, (c) fill the Merchandise Mart, or (d) displace about half of Lake Michigan.

2. True or false: The country's first gold discovery occurred in 1848 at Sutter's Mill in California.

3. Which state produced the most gold in 1986?

4. Gold (a) conducts electricity, (b) resists corrosion and tarnish, (c) reflects heat and light, or (d) has applications in medicine.

5. True or false: For many years U. S. citizens were prohibited from owning gold bars and medals.

6. The price of gold peaked at about \$850 an ounce in January

1980. What was the price just one year earlier? Ten years earlier?

7. How much pure gold can be extracted from a ton of rock taken from a gold mine?

8. A coin made of 22-karat gold contains (a) 22 percent gold, (b) 22 troy ounces of gold, (c) 91.7 percent gold, or (d) pure gold.

9. Why does Uncle Sam add silver and copper to the gold in American Eagle coins?

10. True or false: Gold can be hammered into almost any shape or divided into nearly any size or thickness.

Answers:

1. B.

2. False. By the 1840s, gold had been unearthed in at least six states; North Carolina and Georgia had small gold-mining industries.

3. Nevada, with about half of the U. S. total. South Dakota, California and Montana occupied the next three spots.

4. All choices are correct.

5. True. A 41-year ban on the ownership of such items ended on Dec. 31, 1974.

6. About \$230 an ounce in January 1979 and \$35 an ounce in January 1970.

7. Normally less than one troy ounce. In 1986, U.S. mines averaged one troy ounce of gold per 20 tons or ore.

8. C. Pure gold is 24 karat.

9. Silver tends to reduce the yellowish color of gold while copper deepens the hue and hardens the alloy.

10. True. A film called "gold wash" is less than 7 millionths of an inch thick.